

**TO:** Tommy Lee Woon  
Associate Dean of Students  
Office of Pluralism and Leadership

**FROM:** Nora Yasumura  
Assistant Dean of Student Life  
Advisor to Asian and Asian American Students

**SUBJECT:** Annual Report, September 2004 - June 2005

**DATE:** July 7, 2005

## **I. Mission**

The Office of Asian and Asian American Student Advising is committed to further strengthening the living and learning environment for all undergraduate Dartmouth students through celebrating and exploring the wide range of Asian and Asian American racial and cultural issues. The Advisor provides personal guidance, academic advisement, and leadership development to students of Asian descent so they can continue to excel in and outside of the classroom. In addition, the Advisor develops and supports campus wide events that celebrate and raise awareness of Asian languages, cultures, religions as well as the Asian American experience. In addition to acting as a centralized resource on Asian or Asian American topics, the Advisor is passionate toward building a Dartmouth community that is respectful, inclusive, united, supportive, and open-minded. As part of the Office of Pluralism and Leadership, the Advisor is dedicated to helping all students, staff, faculty and alumni/a, become more culturally versatile and develop moral and ethical leadership skills at Dartmouth College.

## **II. Goals and Objectives for 2004-05**

- Encourage leadership development within the Pan Asian community.
- Work to increase coalitions within the Pan Asian community as well as outside the Pan Asian community.
- Continue to support and promote Asian American Studies at Dartmouth. Support the search for a tenure track professor in the English and History Departments.
- Increase involvement of Dartmouth alumni through providing additional support to DAPAAA (alumni organization).
- Continue to support the work of the Asian American Recruitment Team.
- Provide consultation and outreach to the East Wheelock residence clusters.
- Assist in promoting and marketing the OPAL office throughout the college.
- Assist with the implementation of the Diversity Peer Program retreats and the Race Dialogue Program.

- Actively participate and support established OPAL team goals.

### **III. Student Staffing**

Pan Asian Student Intern

**Serena Chang '05**

Promoted general awareness of Asian and Asian American issues throughout the Dartmouth community and worked to build bridges on campus. Supported the Pan Asian leaders and acted as a student liaison to administration. Helped to run the Pan Asian Council and organized the spring term Pan Asian Community Dinners. Co-coordinated the AASPIRE (Asian and Asian American Women's group) dinners, acted as a liaison to the Women of Color Collective and was a senior editor for Main Street (Asian American student publication).

Pan Asian Special Projects Intern (fall and spring)

**Marie Choi '06**

Worked closely with Serena Chang and Amisha Patel to help develop and implement strategies that promoted Asian American Studies at Dartmouth. Helped coordinate the "Closer to Home" program.

Pan Asian Student Intern

**Amisha Patel '05**

Promoted general awareness of Asian and Asian American issues throughout the Dartmouth community and worked to build bridges on campus. Supported the Pan Asian leaders and acted as a student liaison to administration. Helped run the Pan Asian Council. Acted as the liaison to the South Asian/American student community. Worked closely with Serena Chang and Marie Choi to help develop and implement strategies that promoted Asian American Studies at Dartmouth. This included meeting with senior faculty Dean's and assisting with the English and History faculty searches.

Pan Asian Student Intern

**Nisha Sahay '05**

Promoted general awareness of Asian and Asian American issues throughout the Dartmouth community. Helped to run the Pan Asian Council and organized the Pan Asian Resource Room. Promoted and supported the lives of Asian and Asian American first year students as well assist with the recruitment of Asian American prospective students. This included organizing the coffeehouse reception for the class of 2008 and the Pan Asian Reception for prospective students during Dimensions Weekend. Helped coordinate the "Closer to Home" translation program and expanded the "Pan Asian Community at Dartmouth" website. Coordinated the Pan Asian student award ceremony.

Pan Asian Student Intern

**Avni Shah '07**

Promoted general awareness of Asian and Asian American issues throughout the Dartmouth community. Helped to run the Pan Asian Council meetings. Wrote text for the DAPAAA (alumni association) fall and spring newsletter. Coordinated the winter Pan Asian Community Dinner and the celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

### **IV. Core Functions**

**Anchoring** – Individual, group, and community activities that are directed toward providing underrepresented students with a clearer sense of safety, support, and cultural enrichment; activities that move students beyond surviving to thriving.

- Continued to provide advisement and support to the *over 15 Asian/Asian American student groups*. Encouraged student groups to develop short and long term goals each term as well as reevaluate the mission and purpose of the organization. Provided regular advisement and assistance with all program events (Pan Asian related student's groups coordinate over 150 program events per academic year).
- Maintained the *Pan Asian Master Calendar* and provided “*this week in the Pan Asian community*” emails.
- Continued to hold the *Pan Asian leadership meeting* with student leaders each term to encourage ongoing communication and collaboration between groups within the Pan Asian community.
- Provided *advisement to individual students of Asian descent* through providing support and appropriate referrals to campus resources (Class Deans, Dick's House, and OPAL staff).
- Advised and attended the *Pan Asian Council meeting* with student leaders and organization liaisons.
- Helped Milan, Shanti and the South Asian Upper Valley residents organize a collaborative *Diwali celebration* (about 300 people attended).
- Provided and highlighted opportunities for students to *attend local conferences* and college wide programs/workshops that help increase the understanding of Asian American and social justice issues.
- Continued to highlight *Asian and Asian American specific internship* and fellowship opportunities for students.
- Provided *additional books and videos* for students interested in learning and studying Asian American issues through their academic papers and projects.
- Helped maintain the *Pan Asian Resource Room* in Robinson Hall so Asian and Asian American students can have a safe and affirming social space on campus.
- In conjunction with the Admissions Office, helped to expand the “*Closer to Home*” program (native language program for prospective student parents).
- Held AASPIRE (*Asian American women's group*) dinner discussions three times a term.
- Provided support and guidance to DAPAAA (Dartmouth Asian Pacific American *Alumni Association*).
- Held the *Pan Asian Award Ceremony*.
- Coordinated the Dimension's *Pan Asian Reception for prospectives* students and their families (about 125 attended).
- Participated on the Admission's Office's *Asian American Recruitment Committee*. Updated “*Pan Asian Community at Dartmouth*” website and added section answering questions for prospective students and their parents.
- Coordinated the “*Pan Asian Coffeehouse*” event to help introduce the Pan Asian Community and welcome Asian American first year students to Dartmouth.
- Provided text for two *Dartmouth Asian Pacific American Alumni Association (DAPAAA) newsletters*.
- Held Pan Asian Council meetings that focused on the topic of *Voting and the Asian American community, multicultural issues within the Asian and Asian-American student community, and developing strategies for improving non-Asian membership within the Asian related groups*.
- Regularly highlight general campus programs and resources that would benefit first year students of Asian descent. This would include programs like “*Major Confusion*”, “*Older*

*and Wiser Program”, Academic Skills workshops, Leadership Discovery Program, meeting with first year dean, etc.*

**Outreach** – Individual, group, and community activities that are directed towards the promotion of cross-cultural learning, prejudice reduction, and understanding of the influence of power and privilege in enhancing or subverting inter-group relations.

- Hired and provided supervision to three interns who developed strategies to help promote *Asian American Studies* at Dartmouth.
- Maintained and promoted the *Pan Asian Resource Room* in Robinson Hall so that the entire campus can have a more visible space to find resources related to Asian culture and the Asian American experience.
- Advised and attended the *Pan Asian Council (PAC) Meeting* with student leaders and organization liaisons. One of the goals of this umbrella organization is to promote cross-cultural learning and reduce prejudice and discrimination at Dartmouth.
- Continued to provide advisement and support to the *over 15 Asian/Asian American student groups*. These groups coordinate over 150 program events per academic year. All of these organizations are open to the entire campus and part of their mission is to help raise awareness of cultural and racial issues throughout the campus.
- Coordinated two *Diversity Peer Program retreats*.
- Coordinated three *Race Dialogue weekly discussion groups* during the spring term.
- In conjunction with the English Department and Humanities Center, I sponsored an event titled, *"POETRY AND POLITICS: A Reading and Discussion"* featuring Author Russell Leong.
- In conjunction with the Gay Straight Alliance and Dartmouth Rainbow Society, I sponsored an event titled, *"Gender, Sexuality & Race in the GLBT Community"* featuring Russell Leong.
- In conjunction with the Humanities Center, I helped to sponsor a reading *with Vietnamese American novelist lê thi diem thúy*.  
In conjunction with the Organic Farm, I helped to organize an *"Asian Garden Day: Seeding Event"*
- In conjunction with the theater and AMES program, I supported an event titled *"The American Other on the Chinese Stage"* featuring Tufts University Professor Claire Conceison.
- Sponsored the winter Pan Asian Community Dinner titled, *"Wrapped in Silk: The SECOND GENERATION Asian American"* featuring Arar Han, co-editor of "Asian American X".
- Sponsored the spring Pan Asian Community Dinner titled, *"Feeling Multiracial: Emotions, Transnationalism, and the Geopolitics of Mixed Race Asian America"* Featuring Mount Holyoke Professor Jeff Santa Ana
- Sponsored the event titled *"Asian Fetish & Stereotypes of Asian/Asian American Women"*, featuring Visiting History Professor Shiho Imai.
- Assisted in the planning of the panel title, *"Sex and Body Image Across Cultures"*.
- In conjunction with the over 15 Asian related groups, my office assisted in organizing the month long events in celebration of *Asian Pacific American Heritage Month*.

**Leadership Development** – Individual, group, and community activities that promote opportunities for students to develop their understanding and skills in effective leadership across identities, cultures, and communities.

- Provided individual *mentoring and support* to Pan Asian student organization leaders and my five office interns.

- Continued to hold a *Pan Asian Leadership meeting* with student leaders each term to encourage ongoing communication and collaboration between groups within the Pan Asian community as well as provide basic training on how to become an effective leader.
- Implemented a new campaign called the "*Leadership circle*". This provided practical weekly leadership tips to the leaders associated with the Asian related student organizations.
- Organized a "*Pan Asian Leadership Seminar*", featuring *Tuck School of Business Professor Ruth Wageman*.

**Campus Service** – All activities within or beyond a staff person's job description that provides support to colleagues and students as well as the institution in an indirect way.

- Attended *Academic Actions* meetings each term.
- Participated in the *International Office Orientation*.
- Participated in the college *activities fair* and *family orientation reception* to provide awareness of my office as a college resource.
- Participated in several *Admission Office* panels and discussions with prospective students (*Destinations Dartmouth*, *Dimensions parent reception*, etc.).
- Attended monthly *East Wheelock Cluster Meetings* throughout the fall, winter and spring terms.
- Attended monthly *Choates Cluster Meetings* during the fall term.
- Participated in the *History and English faculty Asian American studies searches*.
- Volunteered to be on the *Dartmouth Sexual Assault Response Team*.
- Acted as a professional screener for the *Dartmouth Depression & Eating Disorder screening event*.
- Provided *consultation during the "Religious Facilities and Leadership at Dartmouth"* planning meeting.
- Provided diversity training consultation to the *Tucker Fellowship Program*.
- Attend the *Alumni Mentoring Program meeting* held by Career Services.

**Community Resource**– Activities in and with the local, regional, and national community that create value for Dartmouth College and students.

- Helped locate *local language translators* and additional community resources to Upper Valley hospitals, clinics and schools.
- Provided support to the over *100 Indian Upper Valley residents*. Helped connect South Asian students with this community.
- Provided advisement and support to the *DAO Pals and KASA Big Sib Programs*. These programs pair Asian American undergraduate students with Asian American children (primarily transnational/racial adopted children from Korea and China) living within a 100 mile radius of Dartmouth.
- Helped found and participate in the "*Northeastern Asian American Deans and Directors Association*". This group features representatives from Tufts, Yale, UConn, Wellesly, Dartmouth and NYU.
- Attended the *Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) conference planning meeting*.
- Provided consultation on diversity general programs to *University of Virginia* and programs specifically to Asian Americans to *Cornell and Northeastern University*.

**Professional Development** – Activities that support the personal and professional growth of self and colleagues.

- Attended various monthly *Diversity Forum* discussions.
- Attended various *Student Affairs Council (SAC)* meetings and discussions.
- Attended the Dartmouth's *Sexual Assault Response Team training*.
- Attended and presented at the *National Social Justice Conference* at New York University.
- Attended the *mediation training workshop* at Dartmouth with Dr. Leah Wing.

## V. Major Accomplishments

- **BROADENING CULTURAL & RACIAL AWARENESS ACROSS CAMPUS**  
My office continued to develop strategies that helped draw out the complexities within the Pan Asian community as well as continue to broaden campus wide cultural and racial awareness. These events are in addition to the over 100 events that the Asian related groups offer to the campus each year. *Events sponsored by my office this past year focused on issues related to Gender, Sexuality & Race in the GLBT Community, Vietnamese American literature, American cultural influences in Chinese theater, second generation Asian American issues, Fetish & Stereotypes of Asian/Asian American Women, Sex and Body Image Across Cultures, and Multiracial issues. Many of these events were co-sponsored with other*
- **BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS CAMPUS**  
My office is always committed to building bridges and partnerships at Dartmouth. Through event planning, serving on campus committees or acting as a consultant, my office has developed partnerships with many different faculty and administrative departments, educational centers and student organizations. Some of these partnerships include the *English Department, Theater Department, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Department, Women & Gender Studies Program, Humanities Center, Religious and Spiritual Life Office, Health Resources, Residential education, Alumni Relations, Tuck School of Business, and the Gay Straight Alliance.*
- **ASIAN RELATED STUDENT GROUP CONTINUE TO GROW & THRIVE**  
The Asian related student groups continue to grow and thrive. *There continues to be over 15 Asian related organizations on campus. These organizations collectively coordinated over 150 campus events (open to all students) during this past year. In addition, the Dartmouth Taiwanese Association (DTA) was founded by two first year students. This organization helped to produce a week long series of events focusing on Taiwanese political and cultural issues.*
- **STUDENT GROUPS INCREASE FOCUS ON COMMUNITY SERVICE & FUNDRAISING**  
Several of the Asian related groups focused their attention on community service and local/international fundraising efforts. *Both the Korean American Student Association (KASA) and Dartmouth Asian Organizations (DAO) offer mentoring programs with trans-racial adoptee children living in the upper valley. Vandana, Dartmouth's South Asian Dance Troupe offers weekly dance classes to Upper Valley children and adults. In addition, Milan joined with other campus group to help plan a campus wide fundraising event for the Tsunami Relief. In addition, several of the Asian related groups were actively involved in the Relay for Life, a fundraiser hosted by the American Cancer Society. The Dartmouth Chinese Culture Society raised funds for a Taiwanese Orphanage. The Vietnamese Student Association collected 5 boxes of books that they sent to colleges and universities in Vietnam. They also raised funds that were sent to the Vietnam Medical Project.*

- **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES INCREASED**  
This year my office expanded opportunities for students associated with the Pan Asian community to further develop their leadership skills. *In addition to meeting with student leaders individually and hosting a leadership dinner meeting each term, my office organized a Pan Asian leadership seminar featuring Tuck School of Business Professor Ruth Wageman. Over 60 students attended this event. It enabled many of the Asian related groups to reevaluate their organization's purpose and start the process of restructuring their organizations so they can function in a more effective manner. My office plans on building on this seminar and will continue to offer more leadership development opportunities in the coming year.*
- **EXPANDING ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES (AAS)**  
This past year my office continued to promote and help expand *Asian American Studies (AAS)* at Dartmouth. Three of my office interns implemented strategies that built support for Asian American Studies from Dartmouth faculty, administration, alumni/ae and the general student population. They continued to meet with senior faculty deans and participated in the two Asian American studies faculty searches that took place this year. *This past winter, Dartmouth successfully hired one new tenure track Asian American literature assistant professor. Despite the surprise departure of History Professor Vernon Takeshita, the college did hire a new tenure track assistant Asian American history professor this past spring.*
- **DARTMOUTH ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (DAPAAA) RESTARTS**  
After several years of inactivity, DAPAAA has reformed and began to communicate with its membership. *My office provided support and consultation as the group restructured and sought suggestions for their leadership. I also assisted DAPAAA in helping them create two e-newsletters and update their website.*

## **VI. Curriculum (office signature programs)**

Core services- anchoring (A), campus service (CPS), outreach (O), community service (CMS), leadership development (LD), professional development (PD)

### *Summer*

Inactive this summer due to being on maternity leave.

### *Fall*

Pan Asian Coffeehouse (first year community orientation program) (A)  
 Pan Asian Community Dinners (A), (O)  
 Pan Asian Council (biweekly) (A), (O), (LD)  
 AASPIRE/women's group (monthly) (A)  
 Diwali Celebration (with Milan, Shanti and Upper Valley Community) (A), (O), (CMS)  
 Pan Asian Leadership Dinner Meeting (A), (LD)  
 Maintain Pan Asian Resource Room (A), (O)  
 Maintain Pan Asian Mini-Library (A), (O)  
 Maintain Pan Asian Master Calendar & Weekly Updates (A), (O)  
 Distribute List of Leaders in Pan Asian Related Groups throughout college (A), (O), (LD)

DAPAAA (Alumni Association) Newsletter (A)

*Winter*

Pan Asian Community Dinners (A), (O)  
Pan Asian Council (biweekly) (A), (O), (LD)  
AASPIRE/women's group (monthly) (A)  
Pan Asian Leadership Dinner Meeting (A), (LD)  
Maintain Pan Asian Resource Room (A), (O)  
Maintain Pan Asian Mini-Library (A), (O)  
Maintain Pan Asian Master Calendar (A), (O)  
Distribute a List of Leaders associated with the Pan Asian Related Groups (A), (O), (LD)  
Diversity Peer Program Retreat (O), (LD)

*Spring*

Pan Asian Community Dinners (A), (O)  
Dimension's Pan Asian Reception (for prospectives) (A)  
"Closer to Home" Program (Native Language Program for Prospective Parents) (A), (O)  
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (A), (O)  
Pan Asian Award Ceremony (A)  
Pan Asian Council (biweekly) (A), (O), (LD)  
AASPIRE/women's group (monthly) (A)  
Pan Asian Leadership Dinner Meeting (A), (LD)  
Pan Asian E-Newsletter to Students, Faculty, Staff and Alumni/ae (A), (O)  
Distribute List of Leaders in Pan Asian Related Groups throughout college (A), (O), (LD)  
Maintain Pan Asian Resource Room (A), (O)  
Maintain Pan Asian Mini-Library (A), (O)  
Maintain Pan Asian Master Calendar & Weekly Updates (A), (O)  
Race Dialogues Program (O)

**VII. Needs, Issues, Concerns**

- **FACULTY RETAINMENT**  
For the second consecutive year, Dartmouth has seen a departure Asian or Asian American faculty in specific but faculty of color in general. This continues to be a huge loss for both the Dartmouth and Pan Asian community. *This past year, History Professor Vernon Takeshita surprising announced that he would be leaving the college one month before he was scheduled to become Dartmouth's first Asian American Studies professor to receive tenure. In addition, newly hired Korean Studies Professor Suk-Young Kim decided to leave the college after only one academic year.* Both stated that lack of institutional support for their academic fields were a factor in their decision to leave. Both participated on my office advisory board and functioned as a major resource for students. They acted as role models, programming resources, and academic and student group advisors. These departures highlight severe challenges in retaining faculty of Asian descent.
- *The creation of the Office of Pluralism and Leadership (OPAL) is still relatively new and has required much time and communication in order for us to be both effective and successful in meeting our team goals.* This past year, the amount of requests to serve on



committees and consult with individual departments or office has dramatically increased. These additional pulls on my time have caused some tensions with meeting the needs of the Pan Asian community. As a result, I will set clear goals and objects that will enable me to diligently plan and establish office priorities for the coming up academic year. This will allow me to maintain an effective balance that will support all six core functions of the OPAL team.

## **VII. Student Contact**

## **VIII. Program Goals for 2005-06**

- Continue to expand programs that enhance leadership development within the Pan Asian community.
- Continue to support and promote Asian American Studies at Dartmouth.
- Continue to help DAPAAA grow and expand through providing additional support and consultation.
- Continue to support the work of the Asian American Recruitment Team.
- Provide consultation and outreach to the East Wheelock residence clusters.
- Assist in promoting and marketing the OPAL office throughout the college.
- Assist with the implementation of the Diversity Peer Program retreats and the Race Dialogue Program.
- Actively participate and support established OPAL team goals.